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☐ 25019-64
Copy 3 of 5

16 SEP 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director for Support */s/ LK 26* 18 SEP 1964

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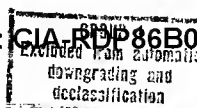
SUBJECT : Publicity Concerning the CORONA ☐
Impact in Venezuela

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. During the first few days after the announcement of the discovery of the Mission 1005 CORONA ☐ in Venezuela the press coverage was confined to brief Reuters, AP, and UPI dispatches plus extensive but unsensational Venezuelan coverage.
3. Anticipating further press inquiry the Interdepartmental Contingency Planning Committee met on August 14th and decided the following:
 - a. Press releases would be made only upon specific inquiry.
 - b. In response to such an inquiry the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs (or SAFOI) would state "After examination it has been determined that the portions of a space vehicle which impacted in Venezuela late in May were a part of a registered satellite #22-A which was launched from Vandenberg AFB 27 April 1964 to assist in the development of spacecraft techniques and technology."

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c. At the appropriate time the Department of State would instruct the U.S. Ambassador to advise the Venezuelan Minister of Defense that "The equipments which impacted near La Fria, Venezuela, which were returned to the U.S. Government by Venezuelan authorities have been established as being portions of a space vehicle launched from Vandenberg AFB, California for the purpose of assisting in the development of spacecraft techniques and technology. This space vehicle was estimated to have re-entered the atmosphere through normal decay 26 May 64 in the general Caribbean area. Examination of the equipment by U.S. technicians will provide valuable corroborating data re the performance of spacecraft. Cooperation rendered by the Venezuelan Government, the Venezuelan Army, Police officials, and the good citizens of Venezuela, without which this valuable data would not have been available, is greatly appreciated."

4. During the subsequent three weeks following the Committee meeting there were no indications of any press interest in the incident until the Knight newspapers contacted SAFOI and were given the agreed upon release.

5. From the standpoint of security policy governing releases concerning overhead reconnaissance, this Office has no security objections.

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Acting Director of Security

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